

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An arterio-venous shunt graft comprising:
a tubular body having an interior surface and an exterior surface, a plurality of ribs extending from said exterior surface.
2. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said ribs extend longitudinally.
3. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said ribs are each generally straight.
4. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said ribs are circumferentially spaced-apart.
5. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said tubular body includes a tubular sleeve, said ribs being formed unitarily with, and extending from, said sleeve.
6. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said ribs have a trapezoidal cross-section.
7. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said ribs have a triangular cross-section.
8. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said ribs have a semi-circular cross-section.
9. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said ribs have a dove-tail cross-section.

10. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said ribs have a pointed cross-section.
11. A graft as in claim 1, wherein a first of said ribs is circumferentially spaced from a second of said ribs with a channel being defined therebetween, said first rib at least partially overlapping said channel.
12. A graft as in claim 1, wherein a sealant material is disposed adjacent to at least a portion of said ribs.
13. A graft is in claim 1, wherein said ribs are not coextensive with said body.
14. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said tubular body is at least partially defined by first and second integral walls, said first and second walls collectively defining a truncated cross-section.
15. A graft as in claim 14, wherein said cross-section is generally D-shaped.
16. A graft as in claim 14, wherein said first wall has a shorter profile length than said second wall.
17. A graft as in claim 14, wherein said ribs are not coextensive with said truncated cross-section portion of said body.
18. A graft as in claim 1, wherein said ribs are formed of a biocompatible material.

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19. A graft as in claim 18, wherein said material is a polymeric material.
 20. A graft as in claim 19, wherein said material is expanded polytetrafluoroethylene.
 21. A graft comprising:
a tubular body being at least partially defined by first and second integral walls, said first wall having a first profile, said second wall having a second profile, said first wall having a shorter profile length than said second wall.
 22. A graft as in claim 21, wherein said first and second walls collectively define a truncated cross-section.
 23. A graft as in claim 22, wherein said cross-section is generally D-shaped.
 24. A graft as in claim 21, wherein said first wall is generally flat.
 25. A graft as in claim 21, wherein said first wall is arcuate.
 26. A graft as in claim 24, wherein said second wall is arcuate.

27. A graft comprising:

a tubular body being at least partially defined by first and second integral walls, said first wall having a first profile, said second wall having a second profile different from said first profile.

28. A graft as in claim 27, wherein said first wall has a shorter profile length than said second wall.

29. A graft as in claim 27, wherein said first and second walls collectively define a generally D-shaped cross-section.

30. A graft as in claim 27, wherein said first profile is generally flat.

31. A graft as in claim 30, wherein said second profile is arcuate.

32. A graft assembly comprising:

a graft having a tubular body; and,

a strip, said graft being mounted on said strip.

33. An assembly as in claim 32, wherein said strip has portions extending beyond said graft.

34. An assembly as in claim 33, wherein a weakened region is formed on said strip between said graft and said portions of said strip which extend beyond said graft.

35. An assembly as in claim 32, wherein said graft partially extends beyond said strip.
36. An assembly as in claim 32, wherein said graft is an arterio-venous shunt graft.
37. An assembly as in claim 36, wherein said graft is mounted on said strip with a general U-shape.
38. An assembly as in claim 32, wherein said tubular body includes an interior surface and an exterior surface, a plurality of ribs extending from said exterior surface.
39. An assembly as in claim 38, wherein said tubular body is at least partially defined by first and second integral walls, said first and second walls collectively defining a truncated cross-section.
40. An assembly as in claim 39, wherein said ribs are not coextensive with said truncated cross-section portion of said body.
41. An assembly as in claim 39, wherein said first wall has a shorter profile length than said second wall.
42. An assembly as in claim 41, wherein said graft is mounted to said strip via said first wall.

43. An assembly as in claim 32, further comprising a second strip, said graft being mounted to said second strip.

44. An assembly as in claim 32, further comprising a self-sealing layer at least partially disposed on said strip.

45. An assembly as in claim 32, wherein said strip comprises a polymeric material.

46. A method of implanting an arterio-venous shunt graft, said method comprising:
 mounting a graft on a strip;
 preparing a subcutaneous tunnel at a desired location in a patient;
 implanting said graft in said tunnel; and
 connecting said graft to blood vessels to form a shunt therebetween.

47. A method as in claim 46, wherein said graft is mounted on said strip to have a U-shape.

48. A method as in claim 46, wherein said graft includes a tubular body having an interior surface and an exterior surface, a plurality of ribs extending from said exterior surface.

49. A method as in claim 48, wherein said graft is implanted with said ribs at least partially facing the skin of the patient.

50. A method as in claim 46, wherein said graft includes a tubular body being at least partially defined by first and second integral walls, said first wall having a profile length shorter than said second wall, said graft being mounted to said strip via said first wall.

51. A method as in claim 50, wherein said graft is implanted with said second wall facing the skin of the patient.

52. A method as in claim 46, further comprising mounting a second strip on said graft.

53. A method of implanting an arterio-venous shunt graft, said method comprising implanting in a patient a graft having ribs formed thereon, said ribs at least partially facing the skin of the patient, and connecting said graft to blood vessels to form a shunt therebetween.

54. A method of implanting an arterio-venous shunt graft, said method comprising implanting in a patient a graft, said graft including a tubular body being at least partially defined by first and second integral walls, said first wall having a profile length shorter than said second wall, said graft being implanted with said second wall facing the skin of the patient, and connecting said graft to blood vessels to form a shunt therebetween.

55. A method as in claim 54, wherein said first and second walls collectively defining a truncated cross-section.

56. A method as in claim 55, wherein said cross-section is generally D-shaped.